Neglect of Sports promotion activities in North East

1955. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports officials of the North East States criticized Sports Authority of India in recent sports meet for neglecting sports promotion activities of the North East sector; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) what facilities Sports Authority of India presently provides for aspirant of North Eastern States; and

(c) the steps proposed to promote sports in the North East sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI:: (a) No, Sir, however, certain shortcomings were pointed out, which are being attended by the Sports Authority of India.

(b) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has Schemes viz. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), Special Area Games (SAG) and SAI Training Centres (STC) for the aspirants of North Eastern States. Under these Schemes, an inten sive talent spoting exercise is conducted to spot the talent at Sub Junior and Junior levels. The selected children are provided with sports facilities and in-house training, free board, lodging edu cation sports kit, sports equipment, com petition exposure, insurance and medical cover. A sports festival is also conducted every year in North Eastern States in which a large number of sportspersons from the region participate.

(c) Slops have been taken to improve the SAI sports facilities in Imphal and Guwahati. It is proposed to increase the number of trainees at various SAI Centres. Special Certificate Course has also been conducted in Sports Coaching for coaches belonging to North Eastern States to enable them to promote sports in their respective disciplines in the region.

Funds for Literacy Schemes

1956. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made special allocation of funds to achieve hundred per cent literacy in our country; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission aims to make 100 million persons in the age group 15-35 years functionally literate in a time-bound manner.

A sum of Rs. 630.39 crores has been allocated for Adult Education Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan. (1997-98 to 2001-2002).

Delhi University Teachers on Long Leave

1957. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Express Newsline section of the Indian Express dated the 16th January, 1999 under the caption, 'Teachers-turned politicians set the example for long leave"; a; d

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to see that teachers attend classes regularly in colleges under the Delhi University?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Governing body of the colleges are empowered for sanctioning leave to the teachers as well as to run day to day administration of respective colleges. The Delhi University had informed that the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) communicated the names of teachers who have not completed their courses in some colleges. The University is in the process of forwarding the names of such teachers to the respective colleges for appropriate action.

Award to Magician P.C. Sarkar

1958. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the magician P.C. Sarkar Junior has recently been conferred, Merlin Award, a recognition for the greatest magician in the world, given by the International Magician Society;

(b) whether Government had ever given any ward to the great magician and his father, P.C. Sarkar (Sr.), as a recognition for their achievement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Government is not associated with the conferment of Merlin award to the Magicians. However, Shri Pratul Chandra Sor-car (Senior), Magician, born in 1913 in West Bengal was awarded Padma Shri in the year 1964 in the field of Arts.

Changes in the text books of Uttar Pradesh

1959. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be. pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain school text books in Uttar Pradesh have undergone changes where those killed during the course of destruction of Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992; have been described as MARTYRS: and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) U.P. Government has informed that Text Books approved by their Department of Basic and Secondary Education do not contain any such reference.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Self Financing Autonomous Colleges

1960. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR RED DY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back, a special task force was constituted by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry to examine, inter alia, the question of setting up high quality and self financing autonomous colleges and Institutes, which could be authorised to award their own degrees;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has since submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, the major recommendations thereof and by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?